

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Koichi TERUNUMA

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: September 23, 2003

Docket No.: 117264

For: MAGNETORESISTIVE EFFECTIVE ELEMENT, THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD,  
MAGNETIC HEAD DEVICE AND MAGNETIC RECORDING/REPRODUCING DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of the non-English language reference 2 is discussed in the present specification.
- ☒ 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.
- ☒ 4. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references 2 and 3 are attached hereto.

- ☒ 5. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office (<http://www.jpo.go.jp>), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 2 and 3.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 23, 2003

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| Form PTO-1449<br>(REV. 8-83)  |   | US Dept. of Commerce<br>PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE |            | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br>117264         |                 | APPLICATION NO.<br>New U.S. Patent Application |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)   |   |   |            | APPLICANT<br>Koichi TERUNUMA      |                 |  |  |
|   |   |   |            | FILING DATE<br>September 23, 2003 |                 |  |  |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS   |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   |   | DOCUMENT NUMBER                                   | DATE       | NAME                              | CLASS           | SUB<br>CLASS                                   |  |
|   | 1 | US 6,469,879 B1                                   | 10/22/2002 | Redon et al.                      |                 |  |  |
|   |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS  |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
|   |   | DOCUMENT NUMBER                                   | DATE       | COUNTRY                           | CLASS           | SUB<br>CLASS                                   |  |
|   | 2 | JP A 2002-117510 w/abstr. + trans.                | 04/19/2002 | Japan                             |                 |  |  |
|   | 3 | JP A 2002-74626 w/abstr. + trans.                 | 03/15/2002 | Japan                             |                 |  |  |
|   |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
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|   |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)  |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |
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| EXAMINER  |   |   |            |                                   | DATE CONSIDERED |  |  |
| Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. |   |   |            |                                   |                 |  |  |

Date: September 23, 2003